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LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the difficulties arising from time to time in the relations between Iraq and the United Nations; and to the need for improved lines of communication between the Government of Iraq and my Office in order to help avert the development of such difficulties into full-fledged crises threatening to undermine international peace and security in the area.

With this objective in mind, I have decided, after careful consideration, to appoint Mr. Prakash Shah as my Special Envoy in Baghdad for an initial period of six months. It is envisaged that Mr. Shah, who will be assisted by a small team of internationally and locally recruited staff, will establish his office in Baghdad before the end of this month.

As my Special Envoy in Baghdad, he will follow closely all developments relevant to the role of the United Nations with regard to Iraq. He will lend his support to existing United Nations activities in the arms control, humanitarian and economic and social fields while giving special attention to any crisis or problem which might benefit from intervention by United Nations Headquarters.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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